

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 and 9 are withdrawn from consideration. By this amendment, Claims 7 and 8 are amended; and no claims are canceled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the Preliminary Amendment filed February 10, 2005 for this application. In the Preliminary Amendment, Claim 9 was added. However, the outstanding Office Action does not list Claim 9 as a pending claim. The Examiner is requested to indicate Claim 9 as a pending claim in the next Office Action.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. With respect to the § 112 first paragraph rejection, Claims 7 and 8 are amended to clarify the features recited therein. In particular, Claim 7 is amended to recite that the downwardly extending feed water pipe has a cylindrical muffling portion which is combined therewith in one body, and is adapted to stall air that is about to pass therethrough with the water owing to a larger inner diameter of the muffling portion, and water passing through said muffling portion draws out the stalled air in the form of very small bubbles, the horizontal feed water pipe is provided with bellows which will stall air contained in the feed water. Claim 8 is amended to recite that the feed water passage is formed by a tubular feed water pipe.

Accordingly, amended Claims 7 and 8 clarify the features recited in the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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